



DATE: MAY 11, 2005

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED RANCHO SAN ANDRÉS CASTRO
ADOBE SEISMIC STABILIZATION PROJECT**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Location: Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe
184 Old Adobe Road (Cross Street Larkins Valley Road)
Santa Cruz County, California

Description of the Proposed Project:

DPR proposes to make the improvements described herein to the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe. The Adobe is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a State Landmark. Therefore, all work will be conducted in a manner consistent with the California Historical Building Code and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (Weeks and Grimmer 1995). The following is a summary of the planned improvements:

- 1.) Provide structural stabilization of the building, including:
 - a. Seismically retrofitting the Adobe structure, incorporating center core-drilled rods through full height of walls.
 - b. Strengthening the second floor by cladding steel strengthening plates alongside each floor joist.
 - c. Reframing roof of main structure, and anchoring it to the perimeter adobe walls, leaving historic roof framing material in place.
- 2.) Seal the building envelope and reestablish historic elements of the building, including:
 - a. Repair or reconstruction of the damaged or collapsed portions of adobe brick walls. Replacement includes 35% of the *cocina* walls and the upper south gable of the main structure.
 - b. Replacement of the *cocina* roof structure, bringing the framing back to its historic accuracy
 - c. Reroof *cocina* with the historically accurate long barn shingles, which shall be visible from below through spaced skip sheathing, vs. the existing nonhistoric standard type shingles currently on the building.
 - d. Reconstruction of the east wall, southerly direction of the *cocina*.
 - e. Repair the exterior adobe plaster finishes to seal the building envelope and protect against moisture intrusion.
 - f. Reroof the main structure.
- 3.) Provide design work to improve architectural elements of the building, including:
 - a. Replacement of the east *corredor* (balcony) roof to its historically correct pitch and framing, the east balustrade to historic and code-compliant height, and the *corredor* support posts to their historic design.
 - b. Removal of the nonhistoric fireplace and chimney and the reconstruction of the wall in this area.

- c. Replacement of four west elevation windows in their historic location and replacement of deteriorated wood lintels at the doors.
- d. Replacement of the exterior stair, making it compliant with current building and safety codes requirements and more historically accurate.
- e. Replace nonhistoric interior stair with one that is safer and less obtrusive.
- f. Relocation of west *corredor* wood posts to their historically accurate locations.
- g. Replace nonhistoric paving surfaces at east and west corridors with wood-framed boardwalk, as per the historic photographs. Both walks shall meet current accessibility requirements.

4.) All work shall conform to the guidelines set forth in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and all applicable state building and safety codes and the Historic Structures Report (Kimbro et al. 2003).

Public Review Period:

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, beginning May 10, 2005. Questions regarding project specifics should be directed to Terry Lee, Project Manager, at (916) 445-8579.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments regarding this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted to the following address:

Gail Sevens
 California Department of Parks and Recreation
 Northern Service Center
 One Capital Mall, Suite 500
 Sacramento, California 95814
 FAX: (916) 445-9100
 Email: gsevr@parks.ca.gov

Submissions must be postmarked or received by fax or email no later than June 10, 2005. The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Email or fax submissions must include a full name and address.

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

- Northern Service Center
 California Department of Parks & Recreation
 One Capitol Mall - Suite 410
 Sacramento, CA 95814
- Santa Cruz District Headquarters
 California Department of Parks & Recreation
 303 Big Tree Park Road
 Felton, CA 95081
- Watsonville Public Library
 Main Library
 310 Union St.
 Watsonville, CA 95076
- California Department of Parks and Recreation website
www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=980